

Showing Up is Half the Battle - Judges Pt 5

Chap 4 - after 20 years of cruelty Deborah tells Barak do what the Lord has told you, ends w/ Jael & tent stake
Chap 5 is a victory song → no victory unless you join the fight - show up - give God something to work with

It is that person who after 20 years can cast off restraint, (let hair down) stand up and say, Let's do this

Jdg 5:2 NLT "Israel's leaders took charge, and the people gladly followed. Praise the LORD!

Todd Beamer flight 93 - inaction not an option, "are you guys ready, Okay let's roll"-- likely to die

Remember the Lord was with them in the past - (He did it before) -- give him something to work with

Jdg 5:4 NLT "LORD, when you set out from Seir and marched across the fields of Edom, the earth trembled, and the cloudy skies poured down rain.

In this battle it was the LORD who confused Sisera and his army and chariots - Judg 4:15

It takes one person to start, to take initiative - it makes all the difference → **UNTIL DEBORAH AROSE**

Jdg 5:6-7 NLT "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, and in the days of Jael, people avoided the main roads, and travelers stayed on winding pathways. 7 There were few people left in the villages of Israel—**until Deborah arose** as a mother for Israel.

They were demoralized...no spear among 40,000...volunteered when they were most vulnerable

Jdg 5:8-9 NLT When Israel chose new gods, **war erupted** at the city gates. Yet not a shield or spear could be seen among forty thousand warriors in Israel! **My heart is with the commanders of Israel, with those who volunteered for war.** Praise the LORD!

The volunteers stepped up, -- indecision is the same as saying no - glory was in "the arena" speech

Jdg 5:13-18 NLT "Down from Tabor **marched the few against the nobles.** The **people of the LORD marched** down **against mighty warriors.** They **came** down from Ephraim—a land that once belonged to the Amalekites; they **followed** you, **Benjamin**, with your **troops.** From Makir the **commanders marched** down; **from Zebulun** came those who carry a **commander's staff.** 15 The **princes of Issachar** were with Deborah and Barak. They **followed** Barak, **rushing** into the valley. **SLIDE But in the tribe of Reuben there was great indecision.** *Why did you sit at home* among the sheepfolds—to hear the shepherds whistle for their flocks? Yes, in the tribe of Reuben *there was great indecision.* 17 Gilead *remained east* of the Jordan. And *why did Dan stay home? Asher sat unmoved at the seashore, remaining in his harbors.* 18 But **Zebulun risked his life, as did Naphtali**, on the heights of the battlefield.

Even though disadvantaged...God fights for us - find out what God is doing and join him (blackaby)

Jdg 5:19-21 NLT "The kings of Canaan came and fought, at Taanach near Megiddo's springs, but they carried off no silver treasures. 20 The **stars fought from heaven.** The stars in their orbits fought against Sisera. 21 The **Kishon River swept them away**—that ancient torrent, the Kishon. **March on with courage, my soul!**

Meroz CURSED because they did not come TO HELP THE LORD -- Jael BLESSED

Jdg 5:23-27 NLT 'Let the people of Meroz be cursed,' said the angel of the LORD. 'Let them be utterly cursed, **because they did not come to help the LORD—to help the LORD** against the mighty warriors.' 24 "Most **blessed** among women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. May she be **blessed** above all women who live in tents. **SLIDE** 25-27 detail of Jael and Sisera and the tent stake

Jdg 5:31 NLT "LORD, may all your enemies die like Sisera! **But may those who love you rise like the sun in all its power!**" Then there was peace in the land for forty years

- Like Barak, What has the LORD told you to do (you may feel ill equipped, or be among the demoralized
- Indecision is not an option - let your hair down, remove constraints, trust the LORD and others will follow -- no glory in indecision, glory is for those who step out of the boat and watch what He will do